

REMARKS

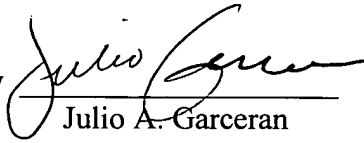
Claims 1-5 and 7-23 are now in this application. Claims 5-10, 17-20 and 23 have been amended. Claim 6 was cancelled.

No additional fee is due.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully,

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MARKED UP VERSIONS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (no change) In a packet switched network a method of encoding speech packets into blocks, each speech packet including a speech header and a payload comprised of a speech frame, wherein at least two speech frames are encoded into a single block.
2. (no change) The method of claim 1 wherein each speech frame is associated with different users.
3. (no change) The method of claim 1 wherein each speech frame is associated with the same user.
4. (no change) The method of claim 3 wherein a speech header associated with only one speech frame is encoded.
5. (once amended) The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein each speech frame is generated by a full-rate encoder.

Cancel claim 6.

7. (once amended) The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein each speech frame is generated by a half-rate encoder.
8. (no change) The method of claim 7 in which four speech frames are encoded into a block.
9. (once amended) The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 ~~to 8~~ wherein each speech frame includes a set of Class I bits and a set of Class II bits, the method further comprising: encoding a first speech frame by encoding at least a portion of the header and the set of Class I bits; encoding a second speech frame by encoding at least a portion of the header and the set of Class I bits.

10. (once amended) The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 9 wherein the speech frames are for transmission on the down-link of a wireless packet switched network.
11. (once amended) The method of claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~ wherein each encoding step comprises encoding two different portions of each header using two different encoding techniques.
12. (no change) The method of any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the Class I bits and a portion of each header are encoded using a convolution code.
13. (no change) The method of any one of claims 11 to 12 wherein the remainder of the header is encoded using a block code.
14. (no change) The method of any one of claims 10 to 13 in which the two speech frames are arranged, prior to encoding, such that they are adjacent.
15. (no change) The method of any one of claims 10 to 14 in which the two speech frames are arranged, prior to encoding, such that the Class I bits of the two users are adjacent thereby forming a first and second set of sequential Class I bits.
16. (no change) The method of any one of claims 10 to 15, in which the last n bits of the first sequential set of Class I bits are removed prior to encoding, wherein the n bits correspond to n zero bits provided for an encoder with a constrain length of $n+1$.
17. (no change) The method of any one of claims 10 to 16 in which the coding step further involves the step of puncturing bits.
18. (no change) The method of claim 17 wherein only the convolution code for encoding the Class I bits involves puncturing of bits.

19. (once amended) The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 9 wherein the speech frames are for transmission on the up-link of the packet radio network, wherein the Class I bits and the header are encoded using a convolution code.
20. (once amended) The method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the single block includes a set of spare bits.
21. (once amended) The method of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 9 wherein the speech frames are for transmission on the up-link of the packet radio network,
22. (no change) The method of claim 21 wherein the Class I bits and the header of each speech frame are encoded using a convolution code.
23. (no change) The method of claim 22, the encoding step further involving the step of puncturing bits.
24. (once amended) The method of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the single block additionally includes a set of stealing bits.